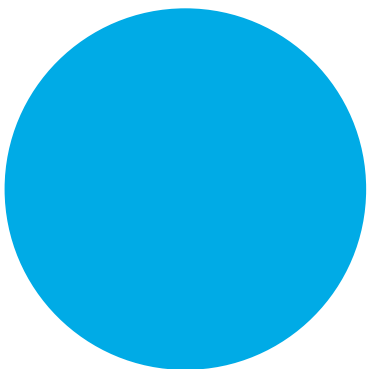




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Georgia advances
in OT thriller

The Bulldogs topped Oklahoma 54-48 in two overtimes to win the Rose Bowl, earn berth in championship. **In Sports**

KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

Trump’s agenda: 7 things to watch

President has big policy plans for 2018, but political distractions could loom over any accomplishments

David Jackson
and Deirdre Shesgreen
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Trump may have big policy plans for 2018, but political distractions could shadow the prospects of big legislative achievements.

Trump wants to rein in the threat from North Korea and list four top domestic priorities on his 2018 agenda: health care, welfare, immigration and infrastructure.

“I would expect to see those four

areas, as well as national security, which never goes away,” White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said.

The Republican-controlled Congress has struggled to pass some of Trump’s major priorities since his election — and their challenges will increase in 2018. The GOP’s bare majority in the Senate will shrink when Alabama Democrat Doug Jones is sworn in.

In January, lawmakers will have to confront a thicket of unfinished business. What’s more, they will be consumed with their own 2018 midterm elections — and the increasingly con-



Tracking turnover in Trump’s White House

Full-page graphic looks at how President Trump’s Cabinet has changed since he took office. **6A**

tentious Russia investigations. “A mid-term election year is a year when most legislation comes to a standstill,” said David Cohen, a political science professor at the University of Akron.

Here are seven key issues Trump and Congress will confront:

North Korea

Trump will lobby China and other countries to twist the economic screws on North Korea in the hopes of forcing that rogue nation to give up its nuclear weapons program.

Trump and his advisers hope to settle the dispute diplomatically but have not

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NEWSLINE

IN NEWS

Indiana law enables sexual harassment

Provisions in state civil rights code keep victims from having day in court

IN LIFE

New shows to warm up to this winter

We sifted through the dozens of options to find 10 worth watching



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230 years

ago today, Georgia voted to ratify the U.S. Constitution, becoming the fourth state in the modern USA.

SOURCE history.com
MIKE B. SMITH, KARL GELLES/USA TODAY



Fans brave Monday’s Winter Classic outdoor hockey game between the New York Rangers and the Buffalo Sabres at Citi Field in Queens, N.Y. Despite the freeze, New Year’s events in many cities went on. **DANNY WILD/USA TODAY SPORTS**

Record-cracking cold gripping most of USA won’t let loose for days

Aamer Madhani
USA TODAY

A huge swath of the USA is starting 2018 with brutal cold and dangerous wind chills as low temperatures are forecast to linger across much of the East Coast, Midwest and South in the coming days.

Temperatures will be 20 to 30 degrees below average east of the Rockies and west of the Appalachians through Wednesday, according to the National Weather Service.

The weather service issued wind-chill advisories covering a vast area from South Texas all the way to Canada and from Montana and Wyoming in the west through New England to the northern tip of Maine.

The frigid weather included record-setting low temperatures in South Dakota, the weather service said. The mercury plunged to minus 21 in Pierre, minus 30 at Mobridge and minus 32 in Aberdeen. Aberdeen’s previous record-low temperature for New Year’s Day had stood for 99 years.

A hard freeze is forecast for parts of the southern USA as temperatures were expected to drop to the 20s and



Amanda Timm and her son, Isaiah, make their way through icy Veterans Park in Milwaukee.

MIKE DE SISTI/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

teens. A hard-freeze warning was in effect for parts of the South, affecting about 17 million people.

Despite the subzero temperatures, New Year’s Day festivities in many U.S. cities went on as normal.

In Milwaukee, where the high was expected to reach only 4 degrees Monday, the traditional Polar Plunge into

See **COLD**, Page **2A**

North Korean defectors find a lifeline in learning English

Thomas Maresca
Special for USA TODAY

SEOUL – After escaping a brutal life working up to 15 hours a day in a North Korean coal mine, Sharon Jang encountered an unexpected adversary in her quest to acclimate to life in South Korea: her lack of English skills.

“When I came here (in 2011), I realized English was really important for adjusting,” says Jang, 27. “I wanted to study nursing, but it was so difficult because so many of the terms were in English.”

For many of the more than 30,000 North Korean defectors who have arrived in South Korea, English quickly emerges as a vital necessity, especially among students.

Though North Korean defectors are given preferential admission to universities, they often find themselves falling behind because many classes use English-language textbooks and teaching materials. Most South Korean students study English for several years before attending college, but those from the North were almost never exposed to the language back home.

A 2016 study from the government-run Korea Development Institute found that almost a third of defectors enrolled in universities wanted to suspend their studies because of English difficulties.

Even the language difference between South and North Korean is exacerbated by English. The two countries speak the same Korean language, but after being separated for almost 70 years, the influx of English terms into the South — known as “Konglish” — leaves many from the North baffled.

Another 2014 poll by South Korea’s Unification Ministry found that more than 40% of defectors picked communication problems from the use of foreign languages as the biggest difficulty in assimilation. It has had a major influence on their lives and career prospects: About 35% of refugees are unemployed, and 80% work in menial jobs.

For Jang, help has come through a Seoul-based non-profit group called Teach North Korean Refugees (TNKR). Founded in 2013 by an American educational policy analyst, Casey Lar-

English is key to refugees’ success: About 35% are unemployed, and 80% work in menial jobs.

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